

The Upper Green Bay Basin

- ✦ The Upper Green Bay Management Basin includes 16 watersheds that drain to Green Bay (see map).
- ✦ Counties in the basin include Marinette, Oconto, and portions of Brown, Langlade, Menominee, Outagamie and Shawano.
- ✦ The basin population was over 105,700 in 2001.
- ✦ Predominant land uses in the basin are agriculture, forestry and recreation. Most urban development is in the cities of Marinette, Oconto, Oconto Falls and Peshtigo, the Town of Suamico and Village of Howard
- ✦ More than 60% of the basin is forested. Approximately 44% of the forested area is privately owned. Government manages 47%; Native American tribes own 2%. Industrial forests comprise 7% of the basin's timberland.
- ✦ 2,654 stream miles drain the basin; more than 1,200 of these stream miles are trout streams.
- ✦ The three main rivers in the basin are the Peshtigo River, the Oconto River and the Menominee River, which forms the state line between Wisconsin and Michigan. Both northern Oconto County and Marinette County have large concentrations of lakes. Marinette County is also known for its many miles of trout streams.
- ✦ There is approximately 70 miles of basin frontage on the west shore of Green Bay. This shoreline comprises the majority of the wetland complexes associated with the Green Bay ecosystem.



- ✦ Recreational highlights include: hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, boating, snowmobiling and non-consumptive recreational uses such as bird watching, snowshoeing and skiing.

Upper Green Bay Management Basin

Basin Ecology

Basin Objectives

- The Basin includes a variety of landscapes and natural resources. These include northern forested areas, southern agricultural areas, and the valuable habitats comprising the Green Bay coastal ecosystem.
- Water resources include inland lakes, flowages, warm and cold water streams, large and small rivers, wetlands, and the waters of Green Bay. The Menominee, Oconto, and Peshtigo are the larger river systems and provide a valuable and abundant fishery. In addition to the numerous inland trout streams, the Green Bay coastal wetland complexes are significant natural features. A number of cold and warm water fish species inhabit the basin's waters.
- Groundwater is plentiful and clean and is used for drinking water by the many people who live here.
- Over 60 % of the basin's surface area is wooded and held in both private and public ownership. Grasslands and barrens are promoted through prescribed burns and mowing.
- Wildlife include black bear, white-tailed deer, turkey, ring-necked pheasant, ruffed grouse, waterfowl, geese, beaver, mink, otter, timber wolves, elk, colonial waterbirds, trumpeter swans, eagle, osprey, northern goshawk, shorebirds.
- Maple-basswood is the most common forest type and the tree species with the greatest volume in the basin is hard maple followed by aspen, white and red pine, soft maple and balsam fir.



- Target the West Shore of Green Bay as a high priority for habitat protection
- Implement the DNR's 50 year Land Legacy Study, an acquisition plan for the state
- Protect shoreland habitat and water quality through water regulation and zoning
- Work with local communities in developing "smart growth" plans & promoting wise land use and zoning
- Complete a comprehensive fisheries plan for the basin, focusing on the Oconto, Menominee, and Peshtigo Rivers and Lake Michigan, including addressing invasive exotic species
- Complete the Master Plan for the Governor Tommy G. Thompson Centennial State Park
- Encourage sound forestry practices on public and private land and identify and manage terrestrial invasive exotic species
- Enhance educational activities for forestry, water quality, wildlife management, healthy ecosystem

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<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/gmu/upgb/index.html>

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[Left: North Shore County Park, Oconto Co., 8/19/00. E.J. Judziewicz, DNR Bur. End. Resources]
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